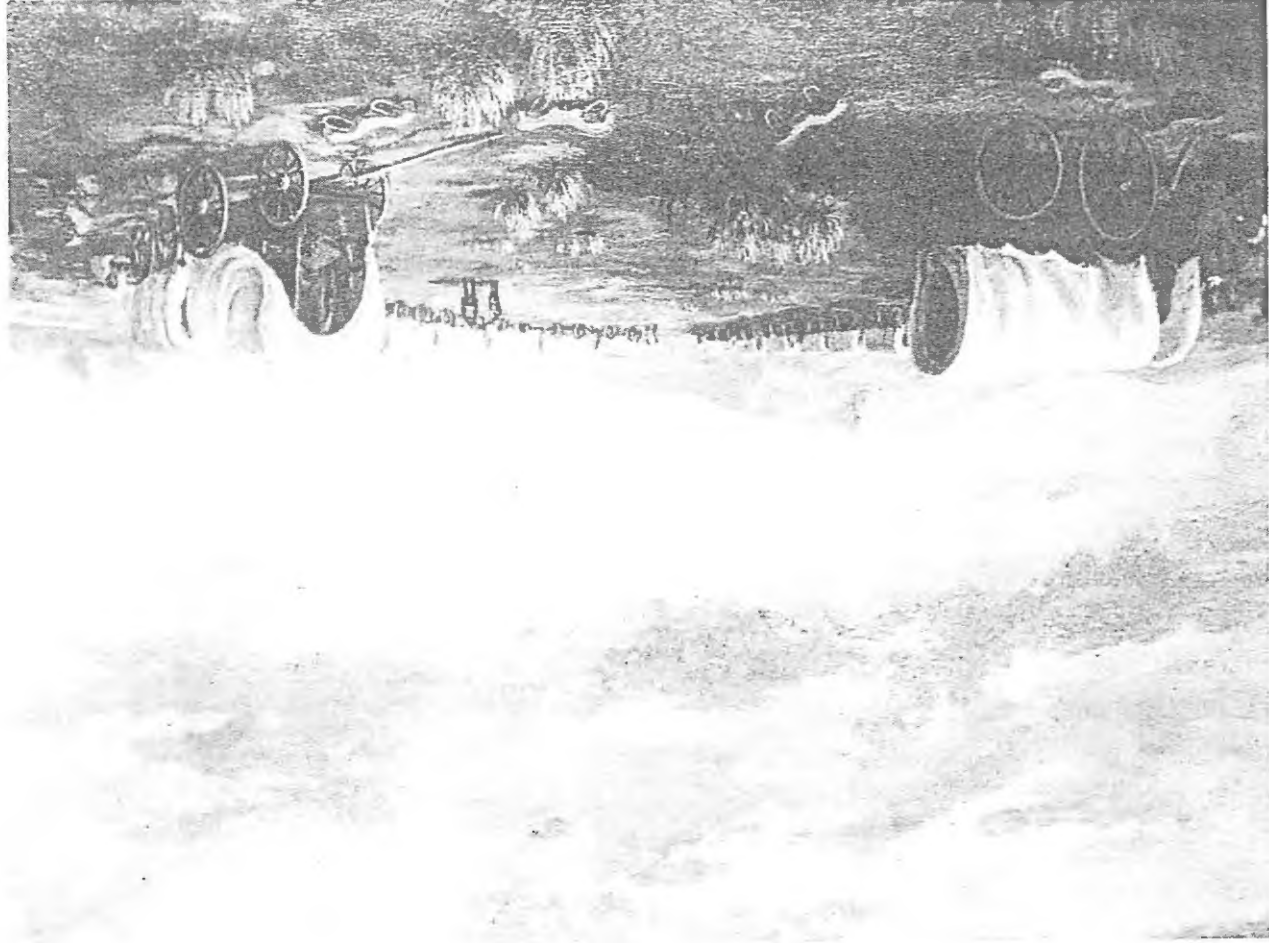
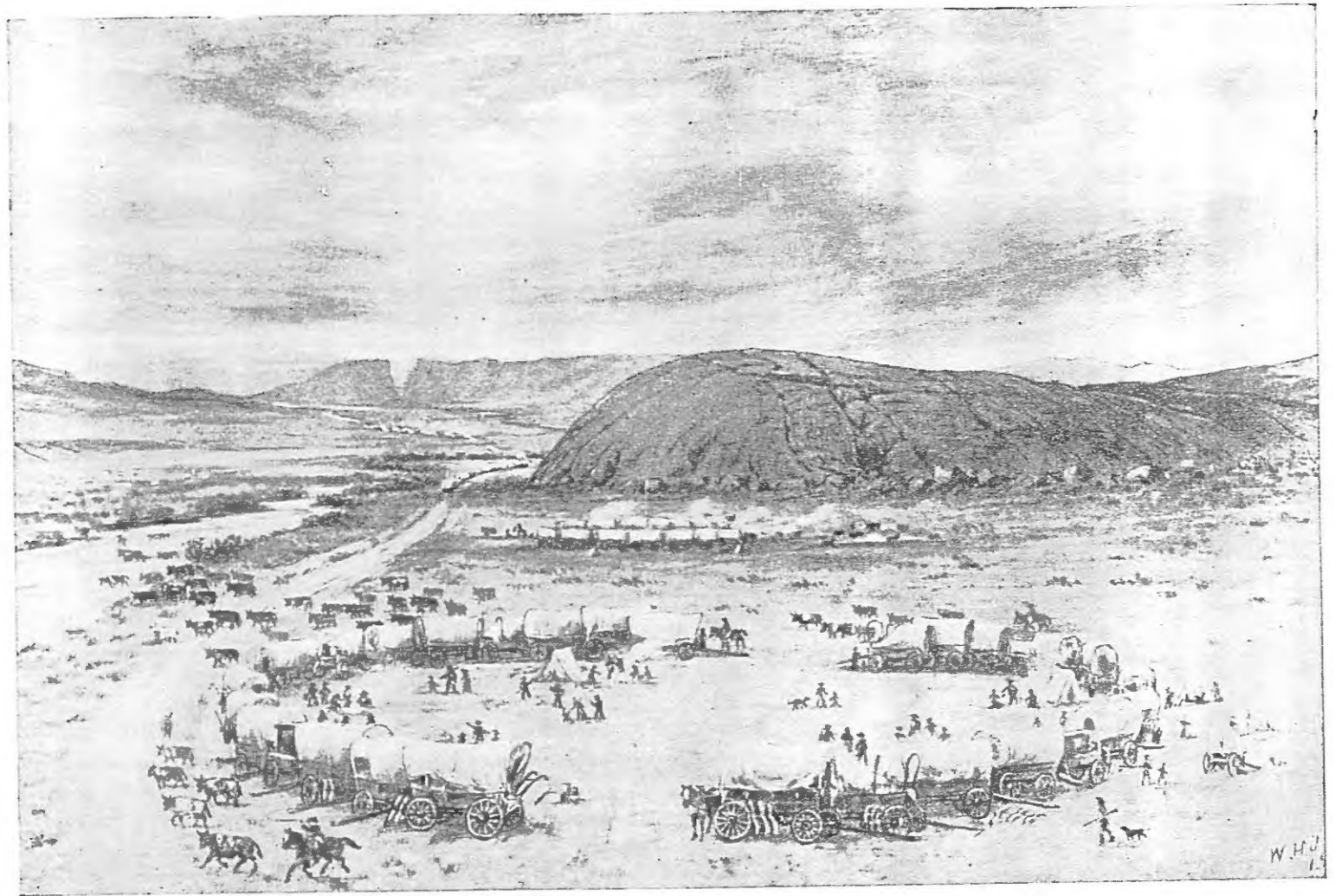


Emigrant party along the Oregon Trail, from a painting by S. Jepperson.





EMIGRATION TRAIN CAMPED AT INDEPENDENCE ROCK, WESTERN
WYOMING, IN EARLY SIXTIES, BY W. H. JACKSON

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

There had been a slight frost in the Pioneer camp on the Platte river during the night, making a thin skim of ice on the water. The weather was cloudy until noon, when it cleared up. Ellis Eames, who had been selected as one of the pioneers, decided to return to Winter Quarters on account of ill health. A number of farewell letters were written by some of the pioneers and sent to Winter Quarters by Mr. Eames, who started back with the trader's wagon.

About 10 o'clock, about seven teams loaded with peltry, belonging to Mr. Sarpy, a noted trapper, passed the Pioneer camp. These teams were returning from their trade with the Pawnee Indians. Shadrach Roundy purchased some buffalo meat from the traders, which was enjoyed by the pioneers.

The pioneers observed this Sabbath as a day of rest and only attended to their cattle. About 5 p. m., as James Case was cutting down a cottonwood tree, a sudden gust of wind blew it in a contrary direction, and, in falling, one of the branches knocked in the right eye of an ox belonging to John Taylor. The ox, however, did not seem seriously hurt, for 10 minutes after the accident happened the eye returned to its place. The twelve retired into the woods to counsel together.

About 6:30 p. m. President Young and Ezra T. Benson met in the grove with the captains of companies and gave instructions to the effect that a horn would be blown at 5 a. m., when every man should arise and attend to prayers before leaving his wagon. Then cooking, eating and feeding cattle, etc., should be attended to until 7 a. m., at which time the camp was expected to move at the sound of the bugle. Each extra man should travel on the off side of his team with his loaded gun over his shoulder, and each driver should carry his gun with caps and powder flasks ready for use in such a way that he could lay his hand upon it at a moment's warning, in case of attack by hostile Indians, or when there were signs of danger. The wagons would travel in double file and halt an hour for dinner, and in forming the encampment wagons



Perspective of an Encampment of the Pioneers
(Drawn by a Tribune staff artist from descriptions of the method adopted in making each night's camp)

should be arranged in a circle with the mouth on the outside, and horses and stock should be secured and tied inside of the circle. At 8:30 p. m., at the blowing of the horn, every man should retire to his wagon and pray, and all except the night guard should be in bed at 9 o'clock. All fires were to be put out at bedtime. These rules were to continue in force until further orders. The captains were also instructed to drill their men in military tactics.

The rules of the camp were communicated by the captains of tens to the members of the companies. The pioneers were to camp each night as near together as possible. The livestock was to be kept inside an enclosure, formed by locking the wagons together, after the custom of the plains. All the wagon tongues were placed outside with the fore wheel of one wagon locked in the hind wheel of the next wagon. At both ends of the corral thus formed were gateways always carefully guarded. Many of the pioneers slept in their wagons, but there were tents carried along,

and these were pitched near the wagons on the outside, the whole camp being patrolled by the guards all night. Sometimes the camp would be made near a lake or river, and in this case, the corral would be formed by the wagons being locked in half-moon shape from two points near the water, the bank forming sufficient protection on the water's edge. After this date the camps were formed on these lines and in subsequent weeks the pioneers became proficient in driving their wagons at night to the exact position to be locked in the circle. After the first days were passed, it became quite an easy task to strike camp, and when the order was given for the day's rest, it would be but a short time when all would be in readiness for the night, and out of the level prairie would arise the mimic city.

It must have been a strange sight to follow the train in its weary march across the desolate prairie, whose solitude had only been broken by the occasional trips of hunters, herds of buffalo, and migrating Indians, who rest-

lessly wandered over the country. Seventy-two wagons, with 148 persons and 247 animals, crossing the plains in a compact body, made quite a good showing, and when the camp was made in the manner described, quite a settlement was formed. Thus, where but an hour before the country was given over to the Indians and wild beasts, would be created, as if by magic, quite a bustling village, with its population including men of all trades, who had been selected on this account to build up the new country. There were sailors and soldiers, accountants and students, bricklayers, carpenters, blacksmiths, wagon-makers, lumbermen, farmers, dairymen, stock raisers, engineers, millers, and mechanics of all kinds. They are the ones who were apportioned to perform the labor of building up the future city of the Great Salt lake—the city of today—bearing innumerable monuments of their skill and ingenuity, while in various other parts of the great west are public works, factories, and settlements, which arose under their supervision.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

The morning was clear in the Pioneer camp. At 5 a. m. the bugle awoke the sleepers, which was 57 miles. Quarters. After prayer attended the cattle, hit teams and started about two teams traveling abreast in the same direction, the men on the side of their wagon.

Orson Pratt took an observation and found the noon camp at a latitude 40 degrees 27 minutes. As the crossing of the Platte at a latitude 41 degrees 16 minutes, the camp at the mouth of the Platte was ten and farther north than the mouth. After traveling about a mile, the pioneers found an encampment, the Pioneer place where a battle had taken place among the Indians; for about a mile, the brethren traveled through a compact mass of remains of the warriors slain in battle.

After traveling about over a level prairie, where places was sandy, the pioneers found several pools, or small lakes, some enjoyed themselves in the ducks and other wild fowl. At 1 p. m., after a short rest, the pioneers started for the bend of the Platte to feed the cattle. At this point a small branch of the river made a somewhat curve to the left of the main river, forming an island. During the day Jesse C. Little, R. Jackson, Porter Rockwell and Thomas overtook the pioneers and distributed mail of 35 letters, which were distributed to them. At 3 p. m. the pioneers resumed their journey, traveling as in the forenoon. In the afternoon, which was warm, they traveled about five miles, and at 6:30 p. m. near a group of trees on the banks of the Platte, they way between the stations. Bend and Rogers on the

MONDAY, APRIL 26

Early in the morning, before the break of day, two Indians creeping upon their hands and knees, approached the pioneer camp, undoubtedly for the purpose of stealing horses. They got within three rods of the guard before they were discovered. The guard at first thought them to be wolves and snapped their guns at them. This caused the Indians to raise up and run, when two of the guards fired at them; four other Indians then arose out of the grass, making six in all. The bugle was sounded and all the brethren arose hurriedly and seized their arms, not knowing but what a large party of Indians was about to attack them. But the first fire of the guards and the sound of the bugle seemed to be sufficient to frighten the savages away. During the excitement all the men were found at their posts under their respective commanders of tens and continued on guard until sunrise.

One of the brethren who seemed to possess some knowledge of such matters pronounced the tracks to be those of the Sioux Indians, instead of the Pawnees.

About 5 o'clock in the morning orders were given for the brethren to assemble for prayers by tens instead of two in each wagon, which was done. President Young told William Clayton that he wanted him to assist Brother Bullock in keeping minutes, as soon as his health would permit because the latter was busy, having to take care of a team and attend to other chores.

The Pioneers resumed their journey at 8:15 a. m., the horse teams leading out and the ox teams following, making an entire new road on the south side of Loup Fork. President Young, Heber C. Kimball, George A. Smith, Amasa M. Lyman and others went ahead on horseback to point out the road. The horse teams traveling ahead broke the coarse grass so that it would not hurt the feet of the oxen which followed.

The company traveled over a prairie covered with dried grass where there were a great many prairie daisies,

both blue and white, scattered about, and had to cross many sloughs and small ridges. Only a few stunted, scrubby trees were to be seen on the margin of the river.

After traveling about seven miles the company halted at 11:30 a. m. to rest and feed their animals, by one of the sloughs in which there were small fish in abundance.

The journey was continued at 1:45 p. m. by traveling seven or eight miles farther. During the afternoon the company crossed two sloughs or soft places, which were the first places of that kind encountered by the Pioneers since they left Winter Quarters. The country, at this place, was more hilly on the north side than on the south side of the river (Loup Fork), and the brethren had to make a new road all day. About 4:30 p. m. the Pioneers passed within a short distance of a ruined Indian village on the south side of the river. During the afternoon they crossed about a hundred trails leading to the river. In some places from ten to thirty such trails were seen close together. These trails were partly made by buffaloes and partly by the Indians.

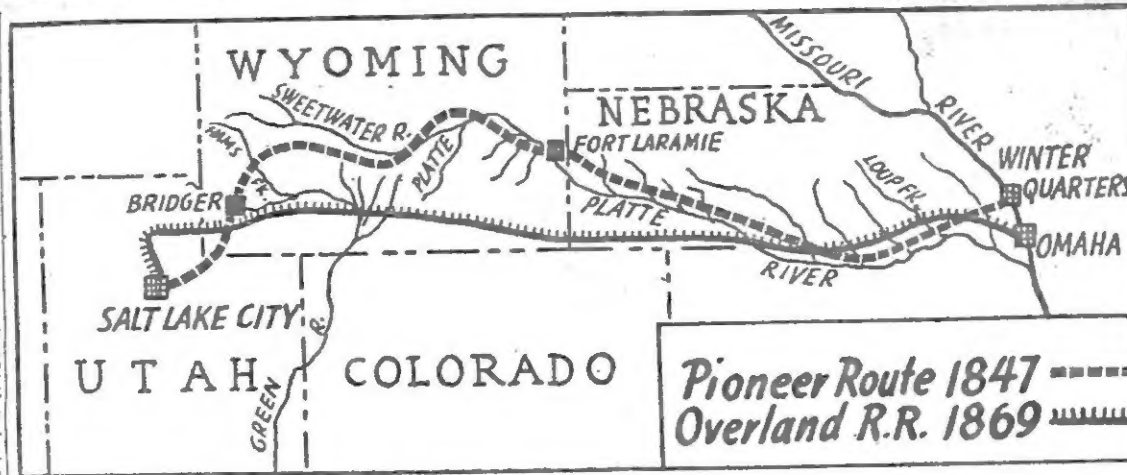
After traveling 15 miles during the day, the Pioneers formed their evening encampment at 6 p. m. on the east bank of a small creek, (Sand Creek) with a clear stream of water and a gravelly bottom. The course of travel during the day had been about south-west, or from ten to twenty degrees west of south, mostly over a sandy desert covered in places with dry grass.

About a mile back from the evening encampment the brethren visited the ruins of the Indian village which they had passed during the afternoon. It was situated on a high bench of land on the banks of the river. The houses or lodges in this village were all down, and there was no appearance of timber left. The entrances to the lodges all faced southeast, the same as those back at the other village on the opposite side of the river. Evidently there had been a garden around the village, as the land had been broken and bore evidence of cultivation.

Just at dusk an alarm was sent through the camp that Indians had crawled up to the encampment and that two horses, belonging to Willard

Richards and Jesse C. Little, respectively, were gone. The lost horses were good animals and the owners were naturally distressed at the loss. The brethren who first started in pursuit were unsuccessful in overtaking the Indians. President Young, Elder Heber C. Kimball, Amasa M. Lyman, Thomas Grover, Joseph Matthews, Luke S. Johnson, John Brown and about half a dozen others mounted their horses and went in pursuit, but after traveling some distance they also returned unsuccessful at 10:30 p. m. This incident proved the necessity of the Pioneers taking better care of their animals.

Early in the day, Ezra T. Benson discovered that one of the iron axles of his wagon was broken. He shifted the load in the wagon so that there should be no weight on the broken part and in this way traveled all day. In the evening the wagon was unloaded, the axle taken off, Thomas Tanner's forge set up and the axle welded and fixed ready to put to the wagon again. This work was done in the short space of one hour after the encampment had been formed, the welding being done by Burr Frost.



Map showing the line of march across the plains to Utah

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

The morning was fine and ant in the pioneer camp at a. m. the wagons coming, the horse teams following, the first division and traveled 12 miles, the design being to go to branch of the Platte river.

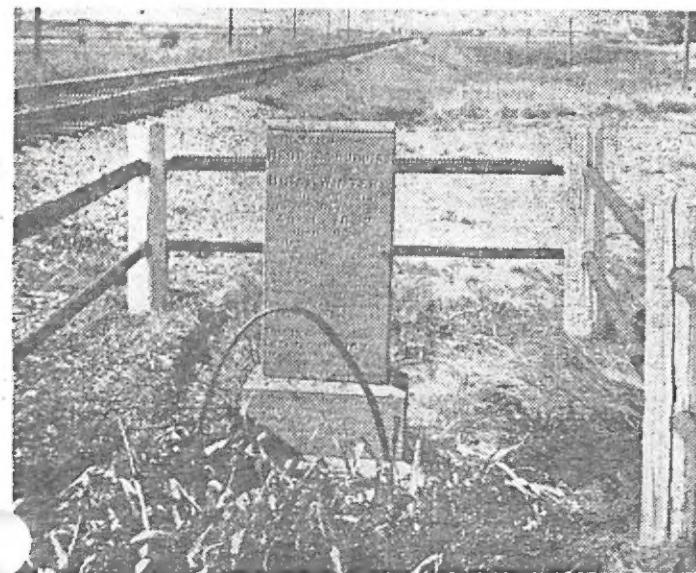
Soon after starting, we crossed Sand creek and dividing ridges or hills, and used their journey next sand ridges, where not be seen, and at length gladdened by the opportunity making a halt at 2:15 p. m. where there was plenty of grass. Here the brethren found wells in which they found it had a very coppery taste. The journey this forenoon was through a rolling even country and also dry. After traveling a new road about four miles, dead shrub, where the brush had been burned off, they found good grass, where they found titles of buffalo dung, and that these animals were away. President Young Kimball discovered a hole habited by many prairie hole they noticed a large snake and around the small owls, which seemed to spond with what man previously had asserted. dogs, rattle snakes and in the same hole together. The weather was hot, with wind blowing, but so parched the lips, that the company halted for on, over a piece of land where the neers had a good view of the river in the distance. The place was, according to Pratt's observations, in degrees 9 minutes and about half way between the Platte, or about miles southwest from the of the previous day.

At 3:15 p. m. the team moved again. Just as it Wilford Woodruff, John Roswell Stevens saw them before them in a valley. Brown fired first and immediately afterwards Woodruff and another were fired. This was the hope the pioneers had in their journey.

on the **Pioneer** Trail



MARTIN'S COVE—In this hollow near South Pass in Wyoming, several hundred members of the Martin Handcart Company sought shelter in October 1856, waiting for aid or death. Fifteen people were buried in one large grave here.



PIONEER GRAVE—A brave mother, Rebecca Winters, was buried like thousands of others along the trail. Her grave, near what is now Scottsbluff, Neb., was marked with an iron wagon tire. Railroad survey crews discovered it.

THE 1,300-MILE trek from Winter Quarters, to Salt Lake Valley, began April 5, 1847, led by Brigham Young. It ended some three months later on July 24, when the wagon train paused at the mouth of Emigration Canyon. The inspired leader looked out over the valley from the carriage in which he had been riding and declared, "This is the right place. Drive on."

The same route may now be covered in a matter of days via automobiles or train, or in a matter of minutes by jet plane.

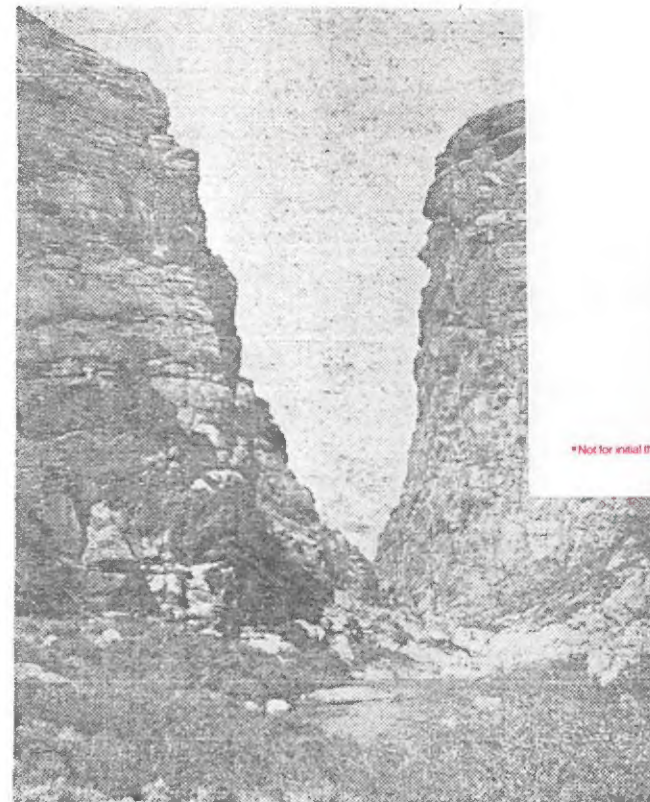
All of the sufferings, the hardships, even the joys of that journey of the first Pioneers and those who followed them are beyond the ken of the modern traveler. But some idea of the experiences they had may be gained by following their route on the modern, hard-surfaced highways that have replaced the rutted track.

Beginning with the tragic Winter Quarters Monument at the old cemetery in Omaha, Neb., the trail leads to Chimney Rock, a prominent formation well-known to the emigrants.

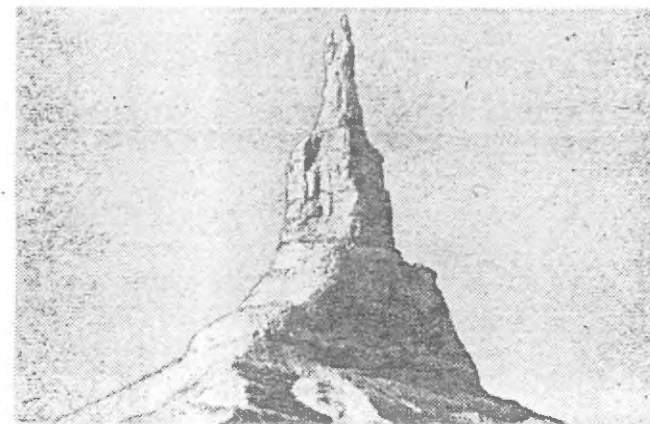
Rebecca Winters' grave near Scottsbluff, is representative of some 7,000 graves, most of them unmarked.

In Wyoming, Ft. Laramie, Independence Rock, Devil's Gate, Martin's Cove, Rock Creek and Ft. Bridger are Pioneer landmarks.

The pioneer fortifications in Utah's Echo Canyon and the magnificent "This Is the Place" Monument in Salt Lake City complete the trip.



DEVIL'S GATE—The passage of the Sweetwater River between these sheer cliffs became known to the Pioneer travelers as "Devil's Gate." It was a noted landmark in what is now Wyoming.



Need map of South Pass Wyoming

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TUESDAY, JUNE 1

The morning was warm and pleasant in the pioneer camp, and, in the language of Elder Clayton: "All was still and quiet as a summer morning; the brethren being well and in good spirits, and a feeling of peace, union and brotherly love dwelling in every breast."

The pioneers started on their journey at 9 a. m., crossing Rawhide creek (thus named by Grosclaude), and then continued their trek westward.

As the company traveled along the brethren saw many trees on the banks of the river on their left, while on their right were sandy bluffs and rocks. They passed the dead bodies of four Indians tied up in skins and fastened to trees, this manner of disposing of the dead being preferred by the Indians to burying them in the ground, where the wolves and other wild animals might easily dig them up and devour them.

After traveling four and one-half miles, the company halted for noon opposite the ruins of an old trading post, situated on the right bank of the north fork of the Platte.

At 1:30 p. m. the journey was resumed and soon after starting the cry was raised by one of the brethren: "I see Fort Laramie." This created great interest among the brethren, all being very anxious to see signs of civilized habitation once more. The fort was seen plainly about 3 p. m., some four miles to the southwest.

About this time President Young and Heber C. Kimball came up to the point where Wilford Woodruff and William Clayton were looking out for feed, and the four men then continued the journey westward, after President Young had stopped the wagons temporarily. Reaching the river ford, nearly opposite Fort Platte, it was concluded to form the encampment for the night at this point, where the river was about one-fourth of a mile wide.

When President Young, Mr. Kimball, Mr. Woodruff and Mr. Clayton



FORT LARAMIE

(After an engraving by Fred Piercy, 1853)

arrived on the east bank of the river (North Platte) they saw some men approaching from the west, until they came up and stood upon the opposite bank of the stream.

In the meantime Luke S. Johnson arrived at the proposed camping place with his boat-wagon, accompanied by others who traveled ahead of the main company. The boat (the "Revenue Cutter") was launched at once and Luke S. Johnson, John Brown, Joseph Matthews and Porter Rockwell crossed the river in the boat to greet the men waiting for them on the opposite bank of the stream. With joy the four pioneers soon learned that the men waiting were a part of the so-called Mississippi company of saints who had wintered at Pueblo, but had traveled from that place to Fort Laramie, whence they had now come to the river to meet the pioneers, who were arriving from the east. John Brown, who had led the same company to Fort Laramie the previous year, was especially glad to meet his old friends from the south.

The four pioneers soon recrossed the river, bringing Brother Robert Crow and his son-in-law, George W. Thirlkill, over to the east side. These two brethren, after being introduced to some of the pioneers, reported that they were a part of the Mississippi company of saints who had wintered at Pueblo, and had waited for the

pioneers at Fort Laramie two weeks. To meet with these brethren in this wild region of country caused great joy in the pioneer camp, and this joy became greater still when Brothers Crow and Thirlkill could give the pioneers definite news from the brethren who had enlisted in the Mormon battalion. Brother Crow reported the death of Melcher Oyler and Arnold Stevens and others of the sick detachment of the Mormon battalion since Brothers John H. Tippitts and Thomas Woolsey had left Pueblo for Winter Quarters the previous December.

In the meantime the main company of the pioneers approached the river, and after turning around a point of timber they drove into a very pretty vale; after traveling seven and one-half miles in the afternoon, or 12 miles during the day, an encampment was made at 5:40 p. m. on the spot chosen by President Young on the bank of the North Platte, about 40 rods below Fort Platte, which was situated on the opposite bank of the river, about two miles east of Fort Laramie.

The pioneers formed an encampment in the form of a V. This camp was 543 1-4 miles from Winter Quarters, the way the pioneers had traveled, which distance had been made in seven weeks, lacking half a day. They had arrived so far on their journey without accident or harm,

except the loss of two horses stolen by Indians and two others killed.

Fort Platte was situated on the right bank of the north fork and about half a mile above the junction of the river with the Laramie fork. This fort had been vacated for some time and was, when the pioneers visited it, crumbling to ruins.

About 9 p. m., some time after the evening encampment had been made on the east bank of the river, President Young called the brethren together and suggested that the pioneers should do their blacksmithing, coal burning, wagon mending, etc., as quickly as possible, so they might continue toward the mountains with as little delay as possible.

A number of men were appointed to do herding and to attend to camp duties, transact business, etc., while encamped at this point.

The council and captains met at President Young's wagon in the pioneer circle, when it was decided that two men out of each ten should watch the cattle, the blacksmiths should burn coal to be used in repairing wagons, Colonel Albert P. Rockwood should charter the ferryboat owned by the fort people, in order to ferry over all the wagons, the water being too high to ford, and that all wagons should be overhauled before continuing the journey from Fort Laramie. James Case, Shadrach Roundy and Seth Taft were appointed a committee to overhaul and select plows to be taken to the mountains. This council meeting closed about 10 p. m.

Fort Laramie was formerly called Fort William, and later Fort John, but was named Laramie after the river, which took its name from a French trapper of the earliest fur-hunting period.

From a small party of traders that had just come from Fort Bridger, the pioneers also learned more of the road to the west. The traders stated that the snow was several feet deep on the Sweetwater two weeks before, and they had to leave their wagons and travel to Laramie on horses.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE

The day opened with a very ant morning and a clear sky. Pioneer camp.

At 9:15 a. m. President Young, Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards, William Clayton, Thomas Albert P. Rockwood and several others left the Pioneer camp, on the bank of the North Fork of the river, crossing the river in their sole leather (the Revenue cutter here being 108 yards long). The water was deep in the morning. They first visited Fort Platte, which was in ruins. Thomas Bull, William Clayton measured the ruins of this fort (built of unburned brick) and found them to be 144 yards on the outside. The door on the side was 9 feet 9 inches, the wall 11 feet, the doorway south 10 1-2 feet and all the walls were about 30 inches thick. The inside of the walls there were rooms, the one on the south side appeared to have been a kitchen. These small rooms were 16 feet square and surrounded a yard 6 feet square. On the chimney of the west room were painted a horse and a buffalo, only a few feet high. On the north side of the yard for horses, 98 3-4 by 4 feet, having on the northwest corner a square tower with holes for looking through on the side; this tower was 9 3-4 feet square. The tower ran one rod from the southwest corner of the fort and was under the bluff. The building was made of unburned brick and had been whitewashed.

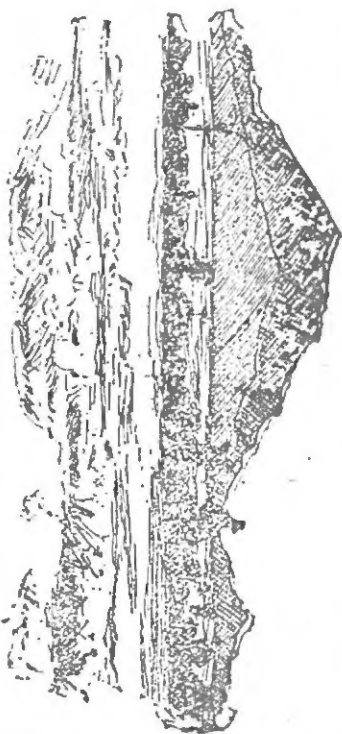
President Young and the others with him then proceeded to Fort Laramie, where they arrived at 11 a. m. After visiting a little with the Mississippi Saints, they encamped close to the fort. Inside Fort Laramie, where they found a room, where they found several things, such as a desk, fiddle and some Mr. James Bordeaux, the man in the fort, received them and introduced them to the others. He was a Frenchman and a man, and he willingly answered questions that were put to

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

The day opened with a very pleasant morning and a clear sky in the Pioneer camp.

At 9:15 a. m. President Young, Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards, William Clayton, Thomas Bullock, Albert P. Rockwood and several others left the Pioneer camp, on the east bank of the North Fork of the Platte, crossing the river in their skiff of sole leather (the Revenue Cutter), the river here being 108 yards wide. The water was deep in the channel. They first visited Fort Platte, which was in ruins. Thomas Bullock and William Clayton measured the walls of this fort (built of unburned brick), and found them to be 144 by 103 feet on the outside. The door on the east side was 9 feet 9 inches, the height of the wall 11 feet, the doorway on the south 10 1-2 feet and all the walls were about 30 inches thick. Around the inside of the walls there were 15 rooms, the one on the southwest corner appeared to have been a store. These small rooms were 16 by 15 feet and surrounded a yard 61 feet 9 inches square. On the chimney piece of the west room were paintings of a horse and a buffalo, only a little defaced. On the north side was the yard for horses, 98 3-4 by 47 feet in side, having on the northwest corner a square tower with holes to shoot through on the side; this tower was 9 3-4 feet square. The Oregon Trail ran one rod from the southwest angle of the fort and followed the river under the bluffs. The building was made of unburned bricks and had been whitewashed.

President Young and the brethren with him then proceeded to Fort Laramie, where they arrived at 10:15 a. m. After visiting a little while with the Mississippi Saints, who were encamped close to the fort, they went inside Fort Laramie, where they were shown up a flight of stairs to a large room, where they found seats, a bedstead, desk, fiddle and some pictures. Mr. James Bordeaux, the principal man in the fort, received them kindly and introduced them to the others. He was a Frenchman and a gentle man, and he willingly answered all the questions that were put to him by



LARAMIE'S PEAK
(From the sketch made in 1853 by Fred Pierry, viewed from a bluff six miles west of Fort Laramie)

President Young and other pioneers self and his men, "Is it not a little singular?" asks Edward W. Tullidge, who entered into conversation with him. Mr. Bordeaux was the superintendent of the fort. The people at the fort shipped their furs to Fort Pierre, on the Missouri river, a distance of 400 miles by land, and received all their stores and provisions back by the same teams, except their meat, which they killed, there being buffalo within two days ride.

The occupants had tried to make a garden at the fort and to plant corn, which generally did well enough the first year, but afterwards they could not raise anything for want of rain. There had been no rain at Fort Laramie for two years, until a few days before the arrival of the pioneers. Mr. Bordeaux and his associates owned a flat boat, big enough to carry two wagons easily, and he offered to rent the same to the pioneers for \$15, to carry their company across the river, or he would ferry them across for \$18, or for 25 cents per wagon.

Mr. Bordeaux told the pioneers that Ex-Governor Boggs of Missouri had recently passed with his company, and he had said much against the "Mormons," and cautioned Mr. Bordeaux to take care of his horses and cattle. As Boggs and his company were quarreling continually and many had deserted him, Mr. Bordeaux remarked to the ex-governor, that let the "Mormons" be what they might, they could not be worse than him.

belonging to the fort, and in the course of a few years this same tribe of Indians had stolen upwards of 200 horses from the owners.

Inquiring about prices of goods at the fort, the brethren learned that a pair of moccasins sold for \$1, a larlat \$1, a pound of tobacco \$1.50 and a gallon of whiskey \$32. Shirting, calico and cottons sold for \$1 per yard, a buckskin knife \$1, buffalo robes from \$3 to \$5 and buckskins from \$2 to \$3 apiece. Cows cost \$15 to \$20, horses and ponies \$40 each on an average, flour 25 cents per pound, etc. Altogether, provisions of all kinds were very high at this fort. There was no sugar, coffee or spices in the store, as the spring supplies had not yet arrived at the fort. The traders had lately sent to Fort Pierre 600 bales of robes, with ten robes in each bale. Their wagons had been gone 45 days.

The fort blacksmith shop was on the south side of the west entrance. There were several dwellings inside the fort besides that of Mr. Bordeaux. The south end was divided off and occupied by stables, etc. There were quite a number of people at the fort, mostly French, halfbreeds and a few Sioux Indians. The brethren were informed that the distance from Fort Laramie to Fort Bridger was 350 miles.

At 1:30 p. m. the brethren got into Mr. Bordeaux's flat boat on their return trip to the Pioneer camp and had a pleasant ride, about three miles down the Laramie fork to its mouth, the current being very swift. They arrived at the junction of the Platte and Laramie fork about 2 p. m. At this point most of the brethren got on shore and towed the boat up to the Pioneer camp, arriving there at 2:15 p. m.

During the day a coal pit was fired within the Pioneer camp circle and three portable blacksmith shops were operating and smiths were busy shoeing horses, repairing wagons, etc.

The Twelve, in council, decided that Amasa M. Lyman should accompany Brothers Thomas Woolsey, John H. Tipples and Roswell Stevens to meet the detachment of the Mormon battalion, which had spent the winter at Pueblo, and hurry them on to Laramie to follow the tracks of the pioneers.

Mormons camp at Fort Laramie

May 29-June 4, 1847: Pioneers reach Fort Laramie in what is now Wyoming.

BY HAL KNIGHT AND
DR. STANLEY B. KIMBALL

Another in a series.

This week began with the pioneers receiving a strong tongue lashing from Brigham Young for their frivolity, dancing, card playing and profanity.

A much-subdued company later crossed what is now the Wyoming-Nebraska border and camped near Fort Laramie where they rejoiced to meet members of a band of Mormons from Mississippi who traveled west in 1846 and wintered at Pueblo (Colorado) on the Arkansas River.

After a cordial reception at the fort, Brigham Young rented a flatboat to ferry the pioneers over the Platte River because it was impossible to continue on the north side of the waterway. On the south side, the Mormons would join the heavily traveled Oregon Trail.

On June 3, a Thursday, the pioneers began ferrying their wagons about 5 a.m., getting a wagon to the opposite shore every 15 minutes. Howard Egan said a strong wind blowing up the river "made it easier crossing."

Four men were dispatched to Pueblo to get the more than 250 Church members there, including sick detachments of the Mormon Battalion, to move toward Fort Laramie and follow the pioneers to the Rocky Mountains.

Amasa Lyman, Thomas Woolsey, John H. Tippetts and Roswell Stevens left camp about 11:15 a.m. They were accompanied a short distance by Brigham and others who held a short meeting, knelt down and dedicated the journey to God and

wagon was over," William Clayton reported.

A number of men walked to Fort Laramie to bid farewell. They deposited letters which fort officials promised would be sent along to Winter Quarters. Other mail was left for pioneers to collect as they reached the fort.

James Bordeaux, the fort superintendent, praised the Mormon pioneers for their behavior. He said that "never before had such a company passed Fort Laramie."

While at the fort, the pioneers heard that the Oregon Trail was getting crowded. A traveler from St. Joseph, Mo., said he passed more than 500 wagons coming from Missouri.

Just before noon a group of 17 Mormons from Pueblo, who had been camped at Fort Laramie awaiting the pioneers, joined their five wagons to the company. This raised the number in camp to 161, after the four men who went to Pueblo were subtracted.

The newcomers included Robert Crow, Elizabeth Crow, Benjamin B. Crow, Harriet Crow, Elizabeth Jane Crow, John McHenry Crow, Walter H. Crow, George W. Therlkill, Matilla Jane Therlkill, Milton Howard Therlkill, James William Therlkill,

William Parker Crow, Isa Vinda Exene Crow, Ira Minda Almarene Crow, Archibald Little, James Chesney and Lewis B. Myers.

The Crow company also brought with them 11 horses, 22 cows, three bulls and seven calves. But some of the party were low on food supplies.

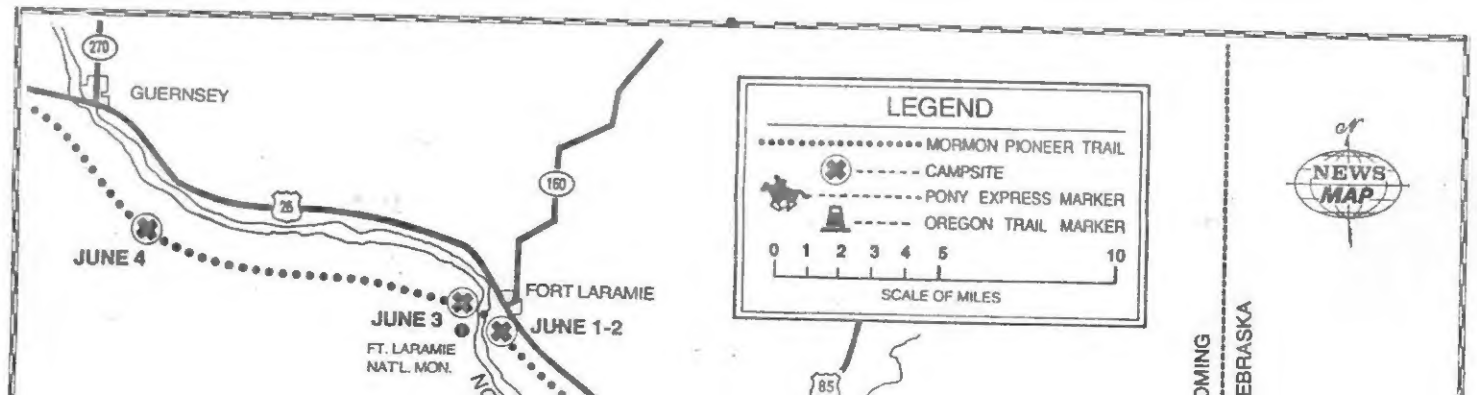
Addition of these animals raised the total in the pioneer company to about 300 livestock, not counting dogs and chickens. This is why the pioneers always were concerned about grazing places for cattle.

After leaving Fort Laramie the company marched about eight miles and descended a very steep hill. "All the wagon wheels had to be locked and we were some time getting down," Clayton wrote. Ropes had to be attached to the back of wagons and men strained to keep them from getting away down the steep slope. The pioneers moved a half mile from this hill and camped for the night.

Wagons were
ferried across
Platte River.



111 Days to Zion



"made it easier crossing."

Four men were dispatched to Pueblo to get the more than 250 Church members there, including sick detachments of the Mormon Battalion, to move toward Fort Laramie and follow the pioneers to the Rocky Mountains.

Amasa Lyman, Thomas Woolsey, John H. Tippetts and Roswell Stevens left camp about 11:15 a.m. They were accompanied a short distance by Brigham and others who held a short meeting, knelt down and dedicated the four to God and blessed them.

Many of the Mormons at Pueblo followed in the wake of the advance pioneer company and entered the Salt Lake Valley just a few days behind them.

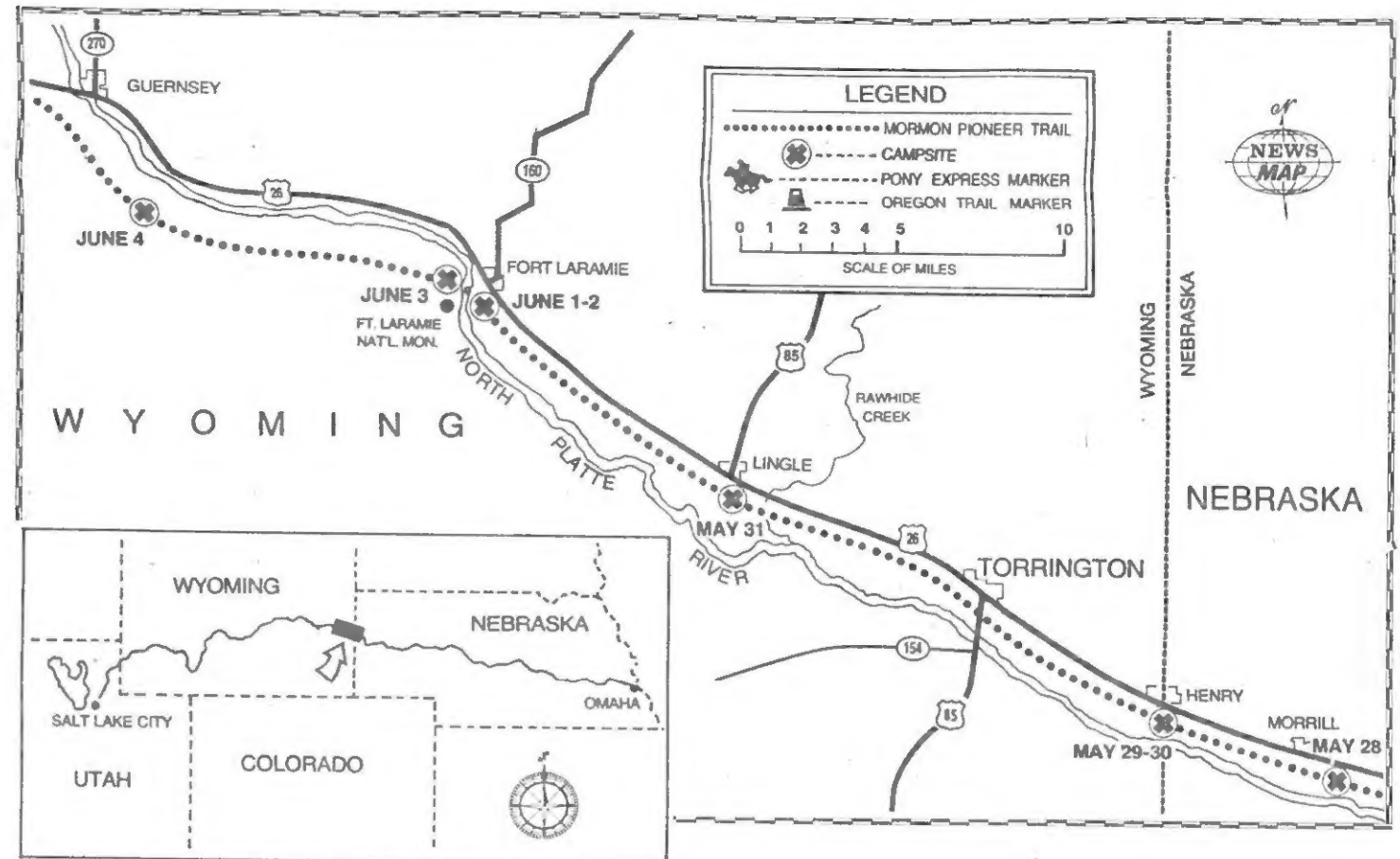
In the early afternoon a violent storm arose. Rain and hail lashed the pioneers and lightning split the sky. The job of ferrying boats over the river was halted while the storm raged for more than two hours.

Most of the horses already were across the river and were housed inside the abandoned Fort Platte near the pioneer crossing. Fort Laramie was about two miles from the ferry site.

At 3:30 p.m. the storm ceased and once again wagons were boated across the river. By 5 p.m. all of the first division was over. The second division began and worked even faster, averaging a wagon every 11 minutes.

But the storm broke out again at 7 p.m. and the pioneers were forced to give up for the night, leaving about 15 wagons on the north side of the Platte River.

The company was up before dawn on Friday, June 4, and commenced ferrying wagons at 4:40 a.m. and by 8 a.m. "the last



Follow the pioneer trail trek...

You can enjoy the Mormon Trail stories appearing in the Church News and daily Deseret News more by following the historical progress on the full-color map which appeared in the April 1, 1978, issue of the Church News.

The map has been enlarged to 24 by 38 inches and is suitable for framing or laminating.

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